

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:

McPherson et al.

Group Art Unit: Unassigned

Application No. Unassigned

Examiner: Unassigned

Filed: June 24, 2003

For: ANIMAL LITTER, PROCESS FOR PREPARING  
ANIMAL LITTER AND METHOD FOR REMOVAL OF  
ANIMAL WASTE

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, the references listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 and/or Substitute Form PTO-1449 ("Form 1449") are submitted for consideration by the Examiner in the examination of the above-identified patent application.

The full consideration of the references in their entirety by the Examiner is respectfully requested and encouraged. Also, it is respectfully requested that the references be entered into the record of the present application and that the Examiner place his or her initials in the appropriate area on the enclosed Form 1449, thereby indicating the Examiner's consideration of each of the references.

The submission of the references listed on the Form 1449 is for the purpose of providing a complete record and is not a concession that the references listed thereon are prior art to the invention claimed in the patent application. The right is expressly reserved to establish an invention date earlier than the above-identified filing date in order to remove any reference submitted herewith as prior art should it be deemed appropriate to do so.

Further, the submission of the references is not to be taken as a concession that any reference represents art that is relevant or analogous to the claimed invention. Accordingly, the right to argue that any reference is not properly within the scope of prior art relevant to an examination of the claims in the above-identified application is also expressly reserved.

The Information Disclosure Statement is being filed:

- ☒ **within** any one of the following time periods: (a) within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 37 CFR 1.53(d); (b) within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR 1.491 of an international application; (c) before the mailing date

of a first Office Action on the merits; or (d) before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114.

- ☐ **after** (a), (b), (c) or (d) above, but before the mailing date of a final action under 37 CFR 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and includes *one* of:

☐ the Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e) (see "Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e)" below).

or

☐ the fee of \$180 set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) (see "Fees" below).

- ☐ **after** the mailing date of a final action under 37 CFR 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and on or before payment of the issue fee, and includes the Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e) (see "Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e)" below), and the fee of \$180 as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) (see "Fees" below).

- ☐ **after** the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, and on or before payment of the issue fee, and **within** thirty days of receiving each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement, and includes the Statement under 37 CFR 1.704(d) (see "Statement under 37 CFR 1.704(d)" below), and the fee of \$180 as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) (see "Fees" below).

NOTE: This is for original applications except applications for a design patent, filed on or after May 29, 2000, wherein a paper containing only an Information Disclosure Statement in compliance with 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98 is being filed.

### Copies of the References

- ☒ Copies of the references listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are enclosed herewith. Attached to each reference not in the English language is a concise explanation of the relevance pursuant to 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3). An English-language equivalent/patent, or an English-language abstract, or an English-language version of the search report or action by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is being submitted in lieu of a concise explanation of the relevance pursuant to 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3).

- ☐ A copy of the foreign search report is enclosed herewith.

- ☐ The references listed on the enclosed Form 1449 were previously identified in the parent application(s) of the present application, and copies of the references were furnished at that time. Accordingly, additional copies of the references are not submitted herewith, so as not to burden the file with duplicate copies of references. The Examiner is respectfully requested to carefully review the references in accordance with the requirements set out in the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(d), the details of the parent application(s) relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 USC 120 in which copies of the references were previously furnished are set out below:

In re Appln. of McPherson et al.  
Application No. Unassigned

U.S. APPLICATIONS		Status ( <i>check one</i> )		
U.S. APPLICATIONS	U.S. FILING DATE	PATENTED	PENDING	ABANDONED
1.				
2.				
3.				

**Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e)**

- ☐ The **undersigned** hereby states that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign patent application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.
- ☐ The **undersigned** hereby states that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign patent application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

**Statement under 37 CFR 1.704(d)**

- ☐ The **undersigned** hereby states that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

**Fees**

- ☒ No fee is owed by the applicant(s).
- ☐ The **IDS Fee of \$180** under 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed herewith.

**Method of Payment of Fees**

- ☐ Attached is a check in the amount of \$
- ☐ Charge Deposit Account No. 12-1216 in the amount of \$ . (A duplicate copy of this communication is enclosed for that purpose.)

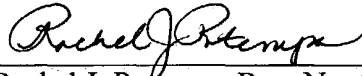
**Authorization to Charge Additional Fees**

- ☒ If any additional fees are owed in connection with this communication, please charge Deposit Account No. 12-1216. (A duplicate copy of this communication is enclosed for that purpose.)

In re Appln. of McPherson et al.  
Application No. Unassigned

**Instructions as to Overpayment**


☒ Credit Account No. 12-1216.  
☐ Refund



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Rachel J. Potempa, Reg. No. 53,477  
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.  
Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 4900  
180 North Stetson  
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6780  
(312) 616-5600 (telephone)  
(312) 616-5700 (facsimile)

Date: June 24, 2003

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → 

Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	Unassigned
				Filing Date	June 24, 2003
				First Named Inventor	McPherson et al.
				Group Art Unit	Unassigned
				Examiner Name	Unassigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	222884

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Doc. No.	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant	Date of Publication	Filing Date If Appropriate
		Application or Patent Number	Kind Code			
	AA	3,747,564		Bickoff et al.	July 24, 1973	
	AB	3,789,797		Brewer	Feb. 5, 1974	
	AC	3,921,581		Brewer	Nov. 25, 1975	
	AD	3,923,005		Fry et al.	Dec. 2, 1975	
	AE	4,009,684		Kliment et al.	March 1, 1977	
	AF	4,157,696		Carberg	June 12, 1979	
	AG	4,206,718		Brewer	June 10, 1980	
	AH	4,258,660		Pris et al.	March 31, 1981	
	AI	4,311,115		Litzinger	Jan. 19, 1982	
	AJ	4,355,593		Stapley	Oct. 26, 1982	
	AK	4,374,794		Kok	Feb. 22, 1983	
	AL	4,519,340		Dickey	May 28, 1985	
	AM	4,560,527		Harke et al.	Dec. 24, 1985	
	AN	4,676,196		Lojek et al.	June 30, 1987	
	AO	4,770,878		Thomas	Sept. 13, 1988	
	AP	4,883,021		Ducharme et al.	Nov. 28, 1989	
	AQ	5,176,107		Buschur	Jan. 5, 1993	
	AR	5,188,064		House	Feb. 23, 1993	
	AS	5,193,489		Hardin	March 16, 1993	
	AT	5,207,830		Cowan et al.	May 4, 1993	
	AU	5,209,185		Chikazawa	May 11, 1993	
	AV	5,230,305		House	July 27, 1993	
	AW	5,361,719		Kiebke	Nov. 8, 1994	
	AX	5,415,131		Dodman	May 16, 1995	
	AY	5,526,770		Kiebke	June 18, 1996	
	AZ	5,605,114		Peltenburg et al.	Feb. 25, 1997	
	BA	5,664,523		Ochi et al.	Sept. 9, 1997	
	BB	5,690,052		Sladek	Nov. 25, 1997	
	BC	5,762,023		Carter	June 9, 1998	
	BD	5,878,696		Gerling et al.	March 9, 1999	
	BE	6,187,581	B1	Sicotte et al.	Feb. 13, 2001	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials	Doc. No.	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant	Date of Publication	Translation	
		Office	Application or Patent Number	Kind Code			Yes	No**
	B F	WO	99/30556		Grain Processing Corporation	June 24, 1999		

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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\* A concise statement of relevance is being submitted in lieu of a translation. 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3).  
 + An English-language equivalent/patent, or an English-language abstract, or an English-language version of the search report or action by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is being submitted in lieu of a concise explanation of relevance under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3).